



**Parks and Recreation Department Board  
Minutes**

**June 25, 2002  
Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, June 25, 2002 at the Parks and Recreation Department, 200 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas.

**Board Members Present:** Rosemary Castleberry, Mary Ruth Holder, Pablo Valdez, Clint Small, Amy Babich, and Jeb Boyt

**Board Members Absent:** Linda Guerrero, Jeff Francell and Rhonda Pratt

**City Staff Present:** Jesus M. Olivares, Stuart Strong, Randy Scott, Kimberley Jamail and Dina Haines

Jeb Boyt arrived at 6:47 p.m.

**A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.

- B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** May 28, 2002 meeting. **Board Member Boyt** made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. **Board Member Holder** seconded the motion. The Board was in favor 5-0-1. Board Member Small abstained.

**C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

**Beckie Forsyth** (Rosemary read Ms. Forsyth comments). Ms. Forsyth, Waterloo Disc Golf Club was in favor of opening a dialogue to resolve the differences the neighborhood association had with the Waterloo Disc Golf Club. Ms. Forsyth was in **favor** of building a new golf disc course at Mary Moore Searight Park and hopes they can continue their project.

**Gordon Maxim-Kelly**, President, Waterloo Disc Golf Club explained the club's concerns and was in **favor** of building an alternative disc course so courses could be rotated, leaving time for the first courses to re-vegetate. He stated that the current course was in need of erosion control and repair.

**Peggy Reed**, Friends of Mary Moore Searight Park spoke in **opposition** to the new alternative disc golf course. Ms. Reed stated her concern for habitat being displaced by the clearing of trees.

**Beverly Vogel**, Friends of Mary Moore Searight Park stated her **opposition** to the second disc course.

**David Adams** spoke in **opposition** to the new disc course. Since there are no provisions such as an irrigation system or maintenance that occurs on these types of golf courses, continuing to build another course is not the suitable answer to maintenance that is needed on the current course.

**David LeBleu**, Vice President, Waterloo Disc Golf Club, stated that the club had worked with a landscaper to determine which trees could be removed for the alternate disc area. Mr. LeBleu is in **favor** of a new alternate disc golf course through Mary Moore Searight Park.

**Lyndon Henry** distributed a document to the Parks Board stating his concerns and his **opposition** to the new alternate disc course. The document stated various reasons for his opposition, but mainly he is concerned about the disturbance of the natural character and tranquility of wildlife and bird habitat in the park. (donated time from Jerome McNichol)

**Jerome McNichol** in **opposition** to the new alternative disc golf course.

**Winford Ray Murray, Jr.**, Board Member of Waterloo Disc Golf Club, spoke in **favor** of a new alternate course. Mr. Murray stated he was looking into the possibly of getting grants from the state for preservation of the remaining trees at Mary Moore Searight Park. Mr. Murray would like to help with the neighborhood association and the disc golf club to meet to open the lines of communication.

**Mitch Bettinger** spoke in **opposition** to the new alternate disc golf course. Mr. Bettinger stated that he is concerned about loss of wildlife habitat as well as the lack of erosion control. Mr. Bettinger stated second disc golf course would create too much impact on the park. He also requested to see a master plan in order to determine how many acres would be required for the new alternate disc golf course and how many trees are planned be cut down for this course.

**Roselind Bond** spoke in **opposition** to the new alternate disc golf course. She stated concerns about the entire nature of the park and would like the city to consider more input from citizens who also use the park. Ms. Bond distributed a letter to the Parks Board in which she stated her concerns.

**Jesus Olivares**, Director, Parks and Recreation department spoke to all in attendance and stated that the new disc golf course project had currently stopped. He instructed staff to look at all the frisbee disc golf courses throughout the city and

to assess the possibility of charging user fees at these courses. All fees collected would then be used for upkeep and maintenance costs.

**C. ITEMS FOR ACTION**

**Item number 3** brought to the front, by Chair Castleberry.

3. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding Proposed Change to Austin Electric Bill Tree Planting Fund.

**Scott Johnson** was present to answer questions from the board and distributed an updated document containing his proposal to Board Members. Mr. Johnson's proposal would replace the current Tree Planting Fund, a check off item currently on the City of Austin utility bill, with a new Parks and Library Enhancement Fund on the utility bill. The proposed fund would share revenue evenly between specified needs within City Forestry and City Libraries.

**Board Member Small** made a recommendation to the Director to continue with communication with Mr. Johnson on the proposal. Board Member Boyt seconded the motion. The motion passed in favor 6-0-0.

1. Make a Recommendation Regarding the Construction of Jauregui Boat Dock at 4404 Rivercrest Drive. File No. SP-02-0066DS

Board Member Small stated this boat dock had been 'red tagged' and the owners were informed to cease action. The owners complied with the request to remove the walkway and replace with a staircase. **Board Member Small** made the motion to approve the construction of the Jauregui boat dock upon the condition that the owners remove the walkway, and replace with a staircase and that the upper second story be screened per Randy Scott's approval with the understanding that the screened room meant no windows or no glass windows. **Board Member Boyt** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 5-1-0.** Board Member Babich opposed.

2. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding Parkland Use Agreement at Eubank Acres for Water and Wastewater Improvements.

**Susan Janek**, Project Manager, Public Works was present to answer questions. The Eubank Acres area was annexed by the City of Austin in December 2000 and the City is now obligated to provide water and wastewater services to serve the legally subdivided and occupied lots by June 2004. The Public Works Department requests acquisition of a permanent and temporary workspace easement for the construction and maintenance of the proposed wastewater improvements. The improvement consists of an 8" diameter PVC pipe installed at an average depth of 12 feet below

the surface. The bore pit will be approximately 35 feet in length and 15 feet in width.

**Board Member Holder** made the motion to recommend to City Council the parkland use agreement with erosion control as mitigation for the use of parkland. The erosion control would consist of rock dissipaters to be put at the end of street to slow the water draining at the end of the park to minimize erosion to the creek. **Board Member Valdez** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 5-0-1.** Board Member Small abstained.

**G. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Olivares informed the Parks Board that the budget article in the American Statement was incorrect. The article did not have any input from city staff. The City of Austin held a budget review session on Saturday, June 22 at City Hall. At this time PARD will be eliminating 93 FTEs. Also, the department will consider eliminating the Teen Academy Program along with reductions to the Summer Playground Program due to staff reductions. The department is considering reduction in hours at the Garden Center and Nature Center. The department is considering closing these facilities 2 days during the week, as to leave the weekends open to assist with weekend events.

**H. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Programs Committee

National Junior Tennis Program, (NJTP) distributed information to the sub-committee.

Land and Facilities Committee

Items discussed at Land and Facilities were items were the Eubanks Acres items on the agenda as well as the naming of Montopolis ball fields and a Yett Creek Park update.

Navigation Committee

None

**H. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

None

**I. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:52 p.m.**